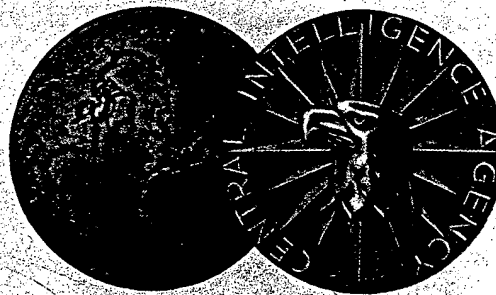


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WEEKLY SUMMARY



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SOVIET-SATELLITE SUPPORT OF CLANDESTINE AIR ACTIVITY TO PALESTINE

Allegations of direct Soviet support of the Israeli military machine were contained in public charges recently made by a [redacted]

The [redacted] statement, much of which is supported by evidence already available, gives a detailed account of the organization of the Israeli Air Force and the Israeli Air Transport Command and describes the methods used in secretly flying considerable quantities of aircraft and munitions from Europe into Palestine. The [redacted] specific charges of direct Soviet support, however, cannot be substantiated at this time. His testimony confirms reports that Prague has been a major center for the procurement of airplanes and munitions for shipment to Israel. Coordinated government direction of these procurement and shipment activities is clearly indicated by the number of Czechoslovak government agencies already implicated. These agencies include: (1) Czechoslovak consuls who have been instructed to issue visas for Israelis and foreign volunteers enroute to Czechoslovakia for training; (2) the Czechoslovak Air Force which has conducted the [redacted] training program, issued Czechoslovak uniforms to the trainees, and placed military airfields at the disposal of foreign aircraft operators engaged in arms-running to Palestine; and (3) the Czechoslovak Communist security police who have protected these various activities to insure secrecy and prevent local interference. Moreover, the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia has organized a corporation, with Israelis holding a minority interest, for the express purpose of facilitating the sale and delivery of Czechoslovak munitions to Israel.

Although there is no indication of the precise role played by the USSR in the Czechoslovak arms traffic, these activities could have been undertaken only with the approval

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of the Soviet Union. The sale of arms and munitions to the Israelis certainly has served the Soviet desire to protract the conflict in the Near East. (Czechoslovakia has contracted to supply arms and munitions to Arab states as well as Israel.) At the same time, Czechoslovakia has been provided with much-needed hard currency. The same dual purpose probably inspired Yugoslavia to provide an airfield in southern Yugoslavia for clandestine air operations to Israel.

There is some evidence that Soviet and Czechoslovak enthusiasm for the support of Israel is diminishing. [redacted]

[redacted] have reported to the US Embassy that the Czechoslovak Government: (1) intends to discontinue the training of [redacted] and the recruitment of volunteers to serve in Israel; (2) is now exercising more rigid control over the movement of Jewish refugees through the country; and (3) is investigating the offices of the American Joint Distribution Committee which handles for Israel the distribution of Jewish DP's. These Prague reports may have been designed to deceive the US as a prelude to carrying on the operations in greater secrecy. The USSR and Czechoslovakia may simply believe that greater caution is needed in order to forestall charges of violating UN truce obligations. On the other hand, the USSR may be convinced that the Israelis have won their fight and that Soviet purposes will be better served by a closer balance of military power between Israel and the Arab states.

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